

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 121700Z JAN 77  
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4800  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TORONTO 0096

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, CA  
SUBJECT: ONTARIO POLITICIANS' VIEWS ON QUEBEC AND ON PROVINCIAL  
ELECTIONS

REF: (A) '76 TORONTO 2320;(B) TORONTO 60

1. MY LUNCHEON GUESTS JANUARY 11 WERE FRANK DREA, PROGRESSIVE  
CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE FOR SCAR  
BOROUGH AND PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER  
AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, AND HUGH SEGAL, PARLIAMENTARY  
SECRETARY TO PREMIER DAVIS AND FORMER ASSISTANT TO EX-NATIONAL  
PC LEADER STANFIELD, WHO WROTE JOE CLARK'S RECENT REPLY TO  
THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE. IN AN ANIMATED 3-HOUR CONVERSATION,  
I WAS TOLD THAT ONTARIO PREMIER DAVIS' STATESMANLIKE STANCE  
REGARDING QUEBEC IS REAL BUT LIMITED BY POLITICAL REALITIES IN  
ONTARIO AND THAT NEITHER OF MY GUESTS SAW AN EXISTING ISSUE  
ON WHICH THE PCS COULD FIGHT A PROVINCIAL ELECTION.

2. SEGAL WAS PART OF ONTARIO GROUP THAT VISITED QUEBEC TO MEET  
WITH PQ GOVERNMENT AND, WHILE CONVINCED OF DESIRE OF LEVESQUE  
AND TOP ASSOCIATES TO ADOPT GRADUAL COURSE TOWARD SEPARATION,  
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DOES NOT KNOW IF SUCH WILL SATISFY MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS IN  
PARTY. WHEN I ASKED REGARDING THE MEASURED REACTION OF PREMIER  
DAVIS TO QUEBEC, I WAS TOLD BY DREA AND SEGAL THAT PRESS REPORTS  
ARE ACCURATE REGARDING DAVIS' FEELINGS AND THAT, IN FACT,  
DAVIS HAS HAD TO CALM DOWN ELEMENTS IN HIS PC CAUCUS WHICH  
PROPOSED STRONG NEGATIVE TREATMENT OF QUEBEC. DREA CONTINUED  
THAT THESE MAINLY FROM RURAL AREAS AND THAT THIS IS ALSO

INDICATIVE OF TRUE SITUATION -- DREA FOUND FROM PERSONAL SAMPLING THAT TORONTO AND SOUTHERN ONTARIO PRACTICALLY DEVOID OF REACTION, THAT THUNDER BAY PCS ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS QUEBEC AND THAT, ON VISIT TO MANITOBA, HE THOUGHT "PEOPLE IN WINNIPEG PRACTICALLY FORMING MILITIA." BOTH GUESTS DISCUSSED LIBERAL LEADER SMITH'S ATTEMPTS MAKE ISSUE OF QUEBEC AND BILINGUALISM AND TOLD ME THAT IN THIS MATTER SMITH DOES NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF HIS PRIMARILY RURAL LIBERAL CAUCUS. DREA GAVE ME PRACTICAL INDICATION OF ONTARIO FEELINGS TOWARD QUEBEC, HOWEVER, IN THAT OF THREE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES IN FORCE HERE, PROVINCIAL WINTARIO AND PROVINCIAL LOTTERIES DOING VERY WELL WHILE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S LOTTO-CANADA ALLEGEDLY COMPLETE FAILURE IN SALES IN PROVINCE. DREA NOTED THAT HIS MINISTRY SUPERVISES LOTTERIES AND THAT OTTAWA ANNOUNCED LOTTO-CANADA WITHOUT EVEN ADVISING PROVINCES IN ADVANCE. DREA, SEGAL BOTH MADE POINT THAT ONTARIO ELECTORATE VERY MUCH AWARE THAT LOTTO-CANADA PROCEEDS TO BE USED TO BAIL OUT MONTREAL WHEN MONEY THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SPENT ON PROJECTS SUCH AS WASTE TREATMENT THERE HAS BEEN DISSIPATED ON IMAGE EVENTS SUCH AS EXPO AND OLYMPICS. THEY INSISTED THAT ABSENCE OF EVEN PRIMARY SEWAGE TREATMENT IN MONTREAL WELL-KNOWN IN ONTARIO AND OF ITSELF CAUSE FOR CITIZEN REACTION. DREA ALSO MADE POINT THAT PQ SENSITIVE TO ECONOMIC FACTORS AND THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, DURING EXPO AND DURING OLYMPICS, SEPARATISTS WENT UNDERGROUND BECAUSE THEY KNEW THEY COULD MAKE NO IMPRESSION ON QUEBEC ELECTORATE EARNING TOP MONEY IN THESE BUILDING PROJECTS.

3. DREA AND SEGAL WOULD NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES AS TO THE POSSIBILITIES OF A PROVINCIAL ELECTION IN THE SPRING BUT WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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VERY STRONGLY OF THE OPINION THAT THE PC GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE THE OPPOSITION CAUSE THE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT, AS THE ELECTORATE IS SICK OF ELECTIONS, AND THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO FIND SOME ISSUE ON WHICH TO WAGE A CAMPAIGN, THERE CURRENTLY BEING NO REAL ISSUES AT LARGE.

4. COMMENT: BOTH MY GUESTS WERE RECOMMENDED TO ME AS THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE SPEAKERS FOR THE PROVINCIAL PC BY PREMIER DAVIS' EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CLARE WESTCOTT. BOTH MEN ARE PRACTICAL POLITICIANS WITH DREA REPRESENTING A RACIALLY CHANGING BOROUGH IN METROPOLITAN TORONTO AND SEGAL, AT AGE 26, WITH TWO UNSUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL AND WORK IN SENIOR STAFF POSITIONS AT BOTH FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL COMBINING TO GIVE HIM A GOOD FEEL FOR PRACTICAL POLITICS. BOTH MEN SUPPORTED THE MODERATE TACK BY PREMIER DAVIS REGARDING QUEBEC AND WERE HONEST IN STATING THAT PRACTICAL POLITICS IN ONTARIO, AS REFLECTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE, IMPOSES A LIMITATION ON HOW FAR DAVIS CAN MAINTAIN THE STATESMANLIKE APPROACH.

THEY FEEL THAT DAVIS WILL ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO SPEAK  
BEFORE THE CANADIAN CLUB IN MONTREAL ON FEBRUARY BUT THAT THIS  
WOULD BE HIS LAST APPEARANCE IN QUEBEC FOR SOME TIME, AS THEY  
BELIEVE THE PQ GOVERNMENT IS STILL VERY MUCH IN THE PROCESS  
OF TRYING TO ESTABLISH ITS POSITIONS ON A MULTITUDE OF ISSUES  
AND THAT THEIR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS WAS BEING CARRIED OUT IN  
A THOROUGH AND HONEST FASHION.  
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